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29 July 1960

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TRANSLATIONS OF LATE 1959 KIANGSI JIH-PAO ARTICLES ON COMMUNES

- COMMUNIST CHINA -

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# TRANSLATIONS OF LATE 1959 KIANGSI JIH-PAO ARTICLES ON COMMUNES

- COMMUNIST CHINA -

Following are translations of selected articles from various issues of the Kiangsi Jih-pao, Nanch'ang. Date of issue, page, and author, if any, are given under individual article headings.

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JPRS: 3637

CSO: DC-3845

# I. USE ACTIVE LEADERSHIP TO BETTER OPERATE MESS HALLS

17 August 1959

Hsieh Hsiang-huang

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In the big leap forward in 1958, some areas of our province began the establishment of mess halls for peasant workers during the summer harvest and planting season of that year. Subsequently, along with the development of the commune movement, mess halls blossomed everywhere in our province. At present, the commune mess halls have traveled the historic road for a year. A close examination of public mess halls doing this historic period of uneven development, shows that their influence will have long-range significance.

The party central committee and the Kiangsi Party Committee have clearly pointed out that the purposes of establishing the public mess hall are to further liberate the labor force, especially among the women, and to raise the utilization rate of labor and labor productivity. At the same time, along with collectivization, the public mess halls have figured significantly in training commune members to lead a collective life and in instilling communist awareness among them. The events of the past year have proved that the establishment of public mess halls have brought about many favorable conditions to the organization of collective methods of production. The public mess hall also brought about many good fortunes to the home of commune members, liberated the women from household chores, and gave women an equal status with men in socialist construction work. Lenin said: "Only by reforming the scattered household labor to serve the great socialist economy can the women be truly liberated." This is true. Although the history of the public mess hall is short, the important role they play has been proven in practice. It can be predicted that along with the continuing development of socialism and communism, the advantages of the public mess halls will be further manifested. The advantages of the public mess halls will be further manifested. The public mess hall are a new product of the socialist big leap forward. The growth and development of a new thing is not always perfect or without shortcomings. At the same time, people's knowledge of something new is frequently very limited. Therefore, it is impossible to avoid certain problems

or discussions during the growth and development of something new. Most of our comrades can view the problems with the proper attitude. They study and analyze them from an objective point of view. They also realize that many commune members are not opposed to the public mess halls, but merely wanted to improve them. We have taken measures to improve the communes and the masses have commented favorably on the improvements we have made. However, other comrades failed to examine the problems from a dialectical point of view, thus their views do not benefit the peoples demand for better communes. At the same time, they do not understand the great significance of the role played by the mess halls in liberating the labor force and in bringing out the household labor for socialist ends. These comrades failed to distinguish the main problems from the less important problems. They mistakenly interpreted the views of the people and said that the masses are opposed to the communes. This is a reflection of their rightist conservative views. These views are detrimental to our work.

We must realize that we will not receive 100 percent support from the people when something new is being developed. This is true with the public mess halls, especially at the beginning of their development. The correct ideas should be vigorously developed. The mess halls should be improved so that the masses will voluntarily join them. Many localities adopted the principles of "vigorous promotion, voluntary participation, grain delivered to the doors and members keep what they saved" in establishing the mess halls. The commune members responded enthusiastically. These principles also served to push production to higher levels, and clearly showed the great strength of the mess halls.

Some comrades demanded that "all five fingers should have the same length." They said everyone should join the public mess halls. They overlooked the individual situations of the members. These comrades regard voluntary membership as a negative matter. They failed to see the objective conditions and the basic needs of the masses. They do not take a subjective view to develop the public mess halls, and to solicit voluntary membership. They just wait for conditions to become ripe. This is rightist conservatism.

The public mess halls are a new form of collective life from the commune members. Because of the varying economic conditions and living habits of the members, their demands also vary. Many localities took this into consideration when they were developing their public mess halls, thus inducing the masses to support the socialist collective life. No one is displeased any more. But some comrade still do not understand the mutual

relationship between the masses and the individuals. They also emphasize one thing and neglect another. For example, in speaking of collective life, they said everyone should join the public mess halls. They also insisted that the livelihood of the members after joining the public mess halls should be reduced to simple routine, thus overlooking the many different habits of the members. On the other hand, some comrades overemphasized the special characteristics of the livelihood of the members and overlooked the collective life of the members. When contradictions between collective and individual livelihood arise, these comrades would begin to doubt the advantages of the public mess halls. This is not in accord with the dialectical principles of Lenin.

Events of the past year show that the key to the proper development of the public mess halls is the correct and firm implementation of the party's policy. If we can do this, then the public mess halls can be properly developed even if conditions are unfavorable. If we failed to implement the party's policy, then the mess halls cannot be properly developed even if conditions are favorable. The public mess halls are developed to meet the needs of the people resulting from the big leap forward. The usefulness of the mess halls have been proven by their practical application. This will be true in the future. We must overcome rightist tendencies and determine to develop the mess hall system. We fully believe that this flower of the big leap forward will become very red and more beautiful as it grows. This is an inevitable development of an objective condition.

## II. EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC MESS HALLS IN TZU-CH'I HSIEN

20 August 1959

Page 1

Lu Tung-pi,  
T'ung Wen-shu,  
and Wu Kan

In establishing public mess halls, the communes in Tzu-ch'i Hsien incessantly struggled against rightist conservatism and vigorously relied on the masses to improve mess hall work. All mess halls were greatly strengthened. In this year's big leap forward, these mess halls received the support of the people.

During the summer harvest of last year, the communes in Tzu-ch'i Hsien established 121 mess halls for the busy peasants, thereby greatly strengthening harvest and planting work. Since the commune movement went into effect last December, 291 public mess halls have been established to serve the peasants on a year-round basis. The entire people of this hsien are eating in mess halls.

However, the mess halls were a new product of the socialist big leap forward. The cadres and the people lacked experience. Various problems came up. Not realizing the role of the mess halls in the big leap forward, some cadres called for the abolition of the mess halls because they said the mess halls were hard to manage and not suited to the needs of the people. They said there was no freedom and that the peasants cannot raise their own vegetables and hogs. These cadres said people should cook in their homes. The reactionaries and bad elements capitalized on this situation to oppose the mess halls. They solicited the cooperation of the cadres, the cooks, and other responsible personnel of the mess halls. They even asked the members to withdraw from the mess halls.

Under these circumstances, the hsien party committee took resolute measures to improve and support the mess halls. On the one hand, the party committee led the masses in the struggle against rightist conservatism and defeated those who opposed the mess halls. On the other hand, the party committee relied on the masses, encouraged voluntary membership and improved mess hall work. In the spring of this year when the communes were being improved, the party committee secretary personally led more than 1,200 cadres to call on all mess halls to point out their advantages. This led the people to a much better understanding of the mess halls. The mess halls dropped 51 bad elements and transferred disease-inflicted cooks to other work. Some 361 youth league members were sent to work as managers

and cooks of the mess halls. The mess halls established management committees. To accumulate experience, the party committee members and other responsible personnel worked 5 to 15 days in various mess halls and interviewed the masses to seek their opinions. The original 291 mess halls were reorganized to make 354 mess halls. The members bring their own tables and chairs. They were permitted to keep what they saved. The members were allowed to take their share of the grain home for special occasions. The mess halls established vegetable production bases and livestock breeding areas. Food became better and more plentiful than formerly. The mess halls are operating smoothly. Those who did not join the mess halls were given grain to take home.

These measures overcome many shortcomings of the mess-halls. The public mess halls have taken on a new look since the beginning of the summer harvest season. The number of well managed mess halls increased to 146 from 95. Poorly managed mess halls were reduced from 103 to 53. People praised the mess halls. Many said the mess halls have solved their food problems. The mess halls are highly praised by the women. One women member said she has more time to work because she doesn't have to take time out for cooking at home. More than 3,200 women have been freed from home cooking. Some of these women have learned to use plows and have been planting the fields. The men have increased their labor productivity because they no longer have to carry water and fuel home for cooking.

Many women have left their kitchens to work in the fields. The men have more time to work. The labor problem has been greatly eased. As a result, the areas under cultivation in this year's early crops have increased 32.2 percent over last year. Gross production was 11.8 percent higher than last year. The summer harvest and planting was completed ten days ahead of schedule. This has also enhanced hog raising, because people can devote more time to care for them.

### III. KIANGSI MID-AUTUMN PLANTING PLAN EXCEEDED

9 September 1959

Page 1

Unsigned article

As of 1 September 1959, the Yu-ch'un district had completed the fall planting of more than 7,978,000 mou of land, 1,140,000 mou more than last year. This represented a 101.2 percent fulfillment of the quota prescribed by the Kiangsi Party Committee. This year, work is 10 to 15 days ahead of last year. The crops are growing well. There are high hopes for a rich harvest this year.

This year, the work in fall crop planting in Yu-ch'un is 10 percent greater than last year. However, the labor force has decreased 10 to 15 percent this year. Under these circumstances, the labor force is fully utilized to overcome this shortage. More than 200,000 women are participating in farm work in the Yu-ch'un area, thereby greatly strengthening the production force. The 231 communes in the area are organized into teams to carry out all aspects of agricultural production. At the same time, the communes have established a system of labor division. Labor organization is being improved. The principles of the "six fixes" have been put into practice. The communes are also implementing the "three highs and three banners" movements to increase production, and to raise labor productivity and work quality. Labor effectiveness has increased 20-30 percent. Campaigns have been launched to promote mutual cooperation among communes, production brigades, etc. Supplies, tools and natural resources are put to effective use. To combat the drought, communes throughout the Yu-ch'un district combined their labor, draft animals, tools, seed, fertilizer, and water resources for a common effort. Altogether, more than 146,000 farm tools were used to dig ditches and to improve irrigation. More than 6,500 ditches and wells were dug. The people no longer have to compete for irrigation water. Their fields are irrigated by rational methods.

Because the communes are made up of workers, peasants, students, and soldiers, there is mutual cooperation among the various departments. Throughout the district, some 23,100 handicraft workers have made 575,400 tolls for harvest work. Many workers in commercial departments are laboring in the lower levels. In addition, the district has organized 300,000 cadres, students, soldiers, officers, and teachers to help harvest the crops.

At present, all areas throughout the Yu-ch'un district are riding on the waves of victory. They are exerting an utmost effort to manage the fall crops. Campaigns to guarantee a good harvest have been launched. The district is determined to surpass its plans.

#### IV. COMMUNALIZATION ELIMINATED PLAGUE

16 September 1959  
Page 1

Ho Ch'i-jui  
Fan Shen-chih

The communalization movement has enhanced the big leap forward of many undertakings. The great potentials of the communes can be seen in the development of health projects in Nan-ch'ang Hsien.

#### Medical Treatment Organs Established Throughout the Hsien and Health Conditions Improve

Since Nan-ch'ang became communalized last year, it has established Hsien People's Hospitals, health clinics for women, schistosomiasis control stations, malaria treatment centers, and pharmaceutical houses. The communes have established 11 health centers, 81 health stations, 505 rest centers, and 195 maternity homes. Its medical treatment network is three times bigger than before the communes were established. Compared with pre-liberation days, the expansion in this field cannot even be calculated.

Before the liberation, there were no large-scale hospitals in the hsien. People living in scattered communities and around the lake areas had to travel 30 or 50 kilometers, for medical treatment. At the least, people had to travel 10 kilometers. Many peasants did not have money for medical treatment. An incalculable number of them died because they did not receive treatment. Health work developed considerably after the liberation. Health centers and medical treatment stations were set up in all areas. Following their establishment, health centers were established in all communes. Health stations were established on the commune level, rest stations were established for production brigades, production teams were staffed with medical and health workers, and medical treatment organs were set up at all levels. Communes are treating their members for both minor and major illness without sending the patients to other areas. Communicable diseases are under control. For example, outbreaks of malaria and acute encephalitis in the Hsiang-t'ang Commune last year were brought under control. Many peasants have said: "Many children would have died without the many health facilities and the communes."

Medical units have been firmly implementing the policy of "early prevention before sickness strikes, early treatment after sickness strikes, and prevention as the main theme."

## Schistosomiasis Control Stations Improve Conditions

The people of the lake areas have been long looking for a cure to schistosomiasis. Schistosomiasis was so prevalent in a community of 700 households before the liberation that it has destroyed all but 26 households by the time of the liberation. A 76-year old woman recalls that she had seen entire families die from this disease and that as a result, more and more land was left uncultivated. She said that not knowing when they will die, people lived in fear and anxiety.

Last year a survey showed that 128,238 of the 153,431 persons checked were suffering from schistosomiasis, 19,000 of them seriously. With the exception of 500, all were cured after six months treatment. Thereafter, the plague of 1,000 years was eliminated.

Many events here will move the hearts of the people. A commune member suffering from schistosomiasis was divorced from his wife. After a series of treatments last year, he regained his health and remarried his wife. He has said that he owes his life and home to the party and his commune.

A 55-year old commune member has been suffering this disease for the past eight years. His illness reached its critical stage last year. Everyone believed that he was going to die. But he recovered after a series of treatments and exclaimed: "Long Live Chairman Mao, and Long Live the Party!"

## With Gratitude For the Party, People Found Heaven in the Communes

When they talk about health, people said they owe their good health to the party and the communes. This is true. After the liberation, under the leadership of the party and along with the cooperative movement, peasants established health facilities in the rural areas. This made it possible for the people to receive treatment for general illnesses. However, the facilities were far from adequate. The cooperatives were not established on a large scale, their resources were limited. A former cooperative chairman said that people of the lake areas lived in a "plague region" away from everything. They attempted to improve health services during the days of the "mutual aid teams" and tried to do the same thing during the cooperative period, but their resources were too limited. They could not build hospitals. To raise the necessary funds, people would have to go without food for six months. However, with the establishment of the communes, their dream for a hospital came true. Their commune is the Ma-chiu People's Commune. It is made up of 27 advanced cooperatives. It has built four large plants and it has more than 2,000 workers engaged in sideline production.

The monthly income of this commune amounts to more than 150,000 yuan. With its manpower and resources, this commune has built many health facilities. In three months, it built one health clinic with two branch clinics, nine health centers, 24 health stations and 27 rural maternity wards.

Along with the commune movement and the pressing demands of the people, and with the production brigade as the basic unit, communes throughout the hsien established public mess halls, kindergartens, and nurseries which greatly aided health work in the rural areas. In the past, families lived, ate, and slept in the same room with household animals. Both men and women worked from morning until night. Parents had no time to care for their sick children. Under these circumstances, it was impossible to develop health work. One health worker said that attempts to improve health conditions failed in the past because there was no unifying force to bring the people together. With the establishment of the communes, this situation was reversed. The mess halls have greatly improved food sanitation conditions. Commune members who are sick are isolated from public mess halls and take their food in another area. Kindergartens and nurseries have been established. With all these improvements, people everywhere are saying that the communes have brought good fortune to them.

## V. COMMUNE RUNS TRANSPORTATION FORCEFULLY

21 September 1959

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Along with the continuous big leap forward in agricultural and industrial production this year, under the leadership of higher level party committee, and on the basis of 3-point directive issued by the Kiangsi Party Committee, the Shang-ts'un-tu People's Commune is taking every measure to promote the development of civilian transportation. It is using mostly native methods. In the first half of this year, it built 27 country roads totaling 54 kilometers and repaired 1,809 transport vehicles of all types, including 10 boats. Some 1,873 persons participated in transportation work. Of these persons, 1,795 were part-time workers who also worked in agricultural production and 78 were full time transportation workers. The potential of this force was clearly demonstrated. From January to July this year, this force completed 60,000 tons of transport for the state, 77,100 tons of grain and economic crops for the peasants in agricultural production, and 2,500 tons of goods for commune members, for a total of 139,600 tons, thereby accumulating more than 20,000 yuan in capital and greatly increasing the income of the commune members. How did this commune promote civilian transportation? The answers are described below.

### Political Leadership Elevates Ideological Understanding

Since the big leap forward of last year, this commune has been harvesting rich grain, cotton, and economic crops. In industrial development, it has built 546 plants of various sizes. Because of the continuous big leap forward this year, more construction materials, and agricultural and sideline products will have to be transported. Preliminary estimate show that it will have to transport nearly 300,000 tons of goods this year. Although improvements were made last, the transport facilities were still inadequate. For this reason, the party said the masses must help to develop the civilian transportation industry. At that time, some cadres disagreed, saying that labor was already a critical problem in the rural areas.

At the same time, the party committee called meetings of cadres and the masses to explain that under the present situation, the masses must participate in building the civilian transportation industry before critical problems in this field can be solved. After a series of meetings, the thinking of the cadres and the masses was unified and their misunderstanding clarified. They finally realized that production cannot be

separated from transportation work. One commune member stated that there were many advantages for civilians to participate in transportation construction. He said in some places grain was not delivered to the state on time because of the lack of transportation. In another place, grain was delivered ahead of schedule. Moreover, the members had time to repair more than 194 transport vehicles.

#### Strengthens Leadership in Organizing Transport Teams

One of the basic guarantees for building up civilian transportation is to strengthen the party's leadership in this work. The commune set up a command post for transportation. The first secretary was the head of the post. The secretary in charge of industrial affairs took care of industrial matters and transportation work. A cadre was assigned to take care of routine operations. Communication and transportation work was included in the daily schedule of the party committee. Organs for controlling and managing transportation work were set up in all production brigades. Usually, the assistant brigade leader or the assistant secretary is in charge. To ensure uniform operations and timely delivery of goods, transportation workers were divided into three teams. A team of 78 men was established to carry out short-haul transportation on a year-round basis. In slack periods, these men participate in production or transportation construction work. A transport group of 1,795 men who are both transportation workers was created to carry agricultural products for the peasants. These men represent 13 percent of the commune's labor force. When agricultural production is not in season or there is shock work to be done, these men also perform other transportation work. A temporary transport team is created as a standby to help transportation work during peak periods. For example, more than 500 men were mobilized last April and May for this purpose.

#### Mobilizes the Masses to Reform Transportation Tools

To solve the contradictions resulting from the improper utilization of transportation facilities and resources, we must carry out the technical reform and renovation of transportation tools. An organization led by the secretary in charge of industrial affairs was created to carry out the technical reform of transportation tools. It included persons experienced in tools, both old and young. The masses were fully utilized. Old tools, new tools, all kinds of tools were improved.

As the result of a rational proposal submitted by the members of the Ho-hsi Production Brigade, the commune converted its 2-wheel transport vehicles into 3-wheel carriers supported by ball bearing axles. The modified vehicles can carry from 700-900 chin of cargo. They are ox-drawn. When the party com-

mittee learned of this, it took every measure to promote animal-drawn vehicles. In a short period of time, more than 300 vehicles were converted to animal-drawn carriers. Wooden wheels were used in place of ball bearings with good results. The technical reform also led to the establishment of repair shops that also make new transport vehicles. At the same time the repair shops are also carrying on research to find ways to make better and more efficient vehicles that will not break down so frequently.

#### Strengthens Management for Unified Planning and Dispatching of Transport Facilities

Transport efficiency was raised by strengthening the turn-around cycles of supply boats and vehicles. On the basis of unified dispatching, unified sources, and unified transport cost, the commune adopted the principles of uniform planning, uniform production, and uniform cooperation. It also adopted the principles of coordinating transportation, and coordinating long-haul with short-haul transportation tasks. Planned transportation was instituted. Monthly and quarterly transportation plans were drawn up by the special transport team. During the peak period of agricultural production, contracts are signed with those in sideline production to solve various transportation problems. In this way, uniform transportation was ensured and the demand for transportation services in the basic construction of mines and plants were also satisfied.

#### Fair Prices in Exchange, Distribution of Income Planned

In helping to develop transportation facilities, the commune must exercise unified leadership, management by level, remuneration according to labor, fair price for the exchange of goods, and the principles of more work for more remuneration. The Shang-ts'un-tu Commune employs two basic methods to handle its transportation problems. One method is for the commune to own and operate its own transportation facilities. The other method is for the production brigades to handle their own transportation. During the periods when agricultural production is not in season, they also engage in other transport tasks. Under this system, those persons who use animal-drawn vehicles and platform carriers retain 60 percent of their income. They feed their own animals. Thirty percent of their income goes to the brigades as administrative expenses, basic construction funds, and health and cultural education expenses. Ten percent of their income is remitted to higher levels in the form of profits.

Those persons who use hand-drawn vehicles retain 85 percent of their income. Ten percent goes to the commune in the form of capital accumulation.

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## VI. KUANG-CH'ANG MESS HALLS OPERATING EXCEEDINGLY WELL

23 September 1959  
Page 2

Yu Mao-jung

The 1,079 public mess halls in the 12 communes in Kuang-ch'ang Hsien are operating exceedingly well and are becoming increasingly strengthened. The admiration of the masses for the mess halls is heard everywhere.

Even before the communes were established, some 200 public mess halls were established during the summer harvest and planting of last summer. The commune members began to see the advantages of the public mess halls purely from the standpoint of the work. Following the establishment of the communes, public mess halls began to mushroom everywhere. The hsien established a welfare committee for the purpose of strengthening the party's leadership over the mess halls. The assistant secretary of the party committee is the chairman of this committee. He is assisted by cadres. The party committee of every commune is paying serious attention to the operation of the public mess halls. The committees also call on-the-spot meetings to exchange and promote experience. Public mess halls are set up to serve the voluntary membership on a year-round basis. Others are set up to serve the peasants during the peak period of agricultural production. The magnitude of the mess halls is determined by the masses. They are organized with the village or the production brigade as the basic unit. A mess hall serves its membership like a big family. Problems are solved as they come up. For example, a shortage of hogs developed. To solve this problem, many communes used the rice husk to feed their hogs. The mess halls and their members began to raise hogs. The women were permitted to collect fodder for the hogs they raise. In this way, the number of live hogs in the hsien was increased to 51,546 head from 45,762 head, an increase of 11.7 percent. This also refuted the contention that mess halls cannot raise hogs. To encourage economy, the mess halls permitted the members to keep the grain they saved. Many commune members said that the communes are good and that they will do their best to strengthen them. For this reason, the public mess halls are becoming increasingly stronger.

At present, most mess halls serve one vegetable and one soup; some serve two vegetables and one soup; others serve three or four vegetables and one soup. Some public mess halls have also established eating in certain places for the convenience of the masses. Some 67 public mess halls have running water and some used native methods to build showers for the members. Many members said it is better to eat in the mess halls because the

variety of food there is better. They can concentrate their effort for full time work and not worrying about getting rice, salt, and fire wood for their families.

The establishment of the mess halls has greatly liberated women labor and greatly enhanced production. Throughout the hsien, more than 12,000 women have been liberated from their household chores and are now participating in production work. The mess halls have also greatly enhanced the development of sideline production. The mess halls alone are raising more than 18,700 hogs. This is 57 percent of the hogs in the entire hsien. The mess halls are planting more than 5,200 mou of vegetables. Some of the vegetables are sent to the market. The mess halls are not only eating places for the members, they are also places for them to meet for recreational or discussion purposes. For this reason, the level of their ideological awareness is constantly being elevated and the members are leading a more comfortable life. The summer planting this year was completed 12 days ahead of last year. The last crops are growing well now. The broad mass of members are getting ready for a rich fall harvest.

## VII. NEW ADDITIONS IN "RED" MOUNTAIN AREA

5 October 1959  
Page 2

Unsigned article

It was hardly a year after the establishment of the Ko-yuan Commune at the revolutionary site of Heng-feng Hsien that spectacular events began to take place.

This area is ringed by thickly wooded mountains. At the center is rich arable land with unlimited resources. The people living in this area are enjoying full prosperity. Yet, before the liberation, they were poor and had to struggle for a living.

In 1927, the revolutionary flag was raised in Ko-yuan. Under the leadership of the party, the people overthrew their feudal rulers. In 1935 when the red army was marching north against the Japanese, the reactionary nationalist army robbed and raped the people. Families died and the general situation was in a state of chaos. Land was left uncultivated, production dwindled, and living conditions became increasingly more intolerable.

Following the liberation, under the leadership of the party, and along with the progress resulting from mutual cooperation, especially after the establishment of the communes, production work in this area was restored. This year, the 9,020 mou of land cultivated by the commune will produce 3,337,000 chin of early crops, up 8 percent over last year. Tea oil is the second most abundant crop in this area. This has been a light year. Its production will only amount to 290,000 chin in 1959, up 45 percent over 1945 which was an average year. Livestock production has developed considerably in the past year. This year, 5,896 hogs will be raised, 20.5 percent higher than before the commune was established. The commune will raise more than 20,000 chickens and ducks this year and will breed other domestic fowl.

The commune wrote a page of glorious history for this area in the big leap forward in agricultural, industrial, and iron and steel production last year. The commune built 102 handicraft plants which produced 120 different types of goods. The annual gross value of production of these plants exceeded 1.1 million yuan. Lumber, reeds and bamboo are the special products of the mountain areas. This year, the production of these items is 20 percent higher than in 1958. In a 7-month period, the commune picked 44,000 yuan worth of various mountain greens, up 21.5 percent over last year.

In the last six months, the collective income of the commune members amounted to 204,000 yuan for an average of 19 yuan per person and representing a 15.6 percent increase over the same period 1958. Again, in a 7-month period, each commune member spent an average of 12.5 yuan for clothes, papers, tobacco, etc, 21.5 percent more than they spent in the same period of last year. By the end of August, savings deposits of the commune members totaled 13,325 yuan, a 52.5 percent increase over last year.

In less than a year, prosperity came to the 3,000 households of this red mountain area. They know that their fortune was brought to them by the people's communes.

Organized on a large scale and with great manpower, the commune can work on projects that agricultural cooperatives were unable to undertake. This is especially true with regard to irrigation construction. Two thousand cadres of this commune built a 2,800,000 cubic meter water reservoir that can irrigate 6,700 mou of land. It can also be used to generate 47 kilowatts of electricity for household and industrial use. In addition, many old irrigation projects were repaired.

The commune is also making unprecedented progress in other basic construction work. In the past year, more than 200 houses, old age homes, hospitals, and pig shelter were built and more than six kilometers of country roads were built.

Since the commune is engaged in so many activities, the talents of all the members can be put to effective use. Some 500 peasants who were not specialists in agricultural work have acquired various technical skills. Teams are organized to train specialists in forestry, livestock, and sideline production work. More than 1,300 tools have been improved.

The commune is utilizing the land for maximum production. Irrigation is brought under unified control. This year, production from the commune's 8,000 mou of land will be over 20 percent higher than in 1958. The commune is converting 933 mou of land from late crops to early crops. Each mou of land will yield an increase of 170 chin of production per year. In the fall planting, 1,700 mou of land were used to plant high-yield crops.

To increase its income, the commune is using its resources to the fullest. It is following the policy of walking on two legs, developing the hog and domestic fowls industry, and vigorously promoting sideline production. It has developed more than 30,000 mou of land for growing tea oil. This is twice the area used last year. Some 2,200 mou of land is used for forestry. In the first half of 1959, the commune exported 303 hogs and more than 300,000 yuan in goods to other areas.

The commune has an abundant source of capital funds. These funds can be expended correctly and rationally. It invests 10,000 yuan in industrial basic construction and 11,000 yuan in agricultural basic construction a year.

This commune has three teams whose economic status, production level, and income are very low. First the commune strengthened its leadership over these teams. Nineteen cadres were sent to work with these teams. The commune also rendered huge manpower, financial and material support to these teams. In six months, loans amounting to more than 20,000 yuan were issued to the teams. During the "double struggle" campaign, the commune sent 200 workers to the teams where they labored for the members. With the help of the commune, the Ch'ing-hu Production Brigade also increased the income of its members.

The commune has taken great measures to promote welfare projects. It has established 160 public mess halls, 21 kindergartens, and 146 nurseries, thereby freeing 1,500 women for production work. An old age home was built. The commune members said they like the mess halls and kindergartens because they liberated the women. They said that aged persons living in happy homes are feeling younger and that medical care now is better than before. With these improvements, everybody is working energetically to increase production.

The establishment of the communes has meant stronger leadership in production work. Cadres are better utilized. In the past, cadres had to go through many steps for a solution to their problems. The commune, where authority is delegated from top to bottom, has eliminated this process. Problems arising in various production brigades are solved on the spot by the brigades. When problems are solved in a timely manner, the masses are happier. A brigade leader said that problems are solved much faster now and that cadres also participated in production work. This was not the case in the past. Because of these improvements, the relationship between the cadres and the people has improved.

The cooperation of the people of all walks of life in the commune has led to a better and more balanced situation between production and commodity movement. Because of poor planning, some farm tools could not reach the market last year. As a result, the peasants could not buy the tools when they needed them. This year, plans for their delivery were made in advance of the summer harvest work. In this way, everyone was satisfied and a big leap forward in all directions was achieved.

The commune has brought spring-like vitality and unsurpassed advantages to the 13,000 persons in this area. These people are busily building a paradise for themselves. They have drawn up a beautiful 4-year plan for the development of this area. It can be predicted that in time there will be a rich harvest of grain, high grade cattle, beautiful forest,

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# VIII. LI-TU COMMUNE'S MILITIA CONSTRUCTION SHOWS THE EXCELLENCE OF THE COMMUNES

5 October 1959

Li Tung-ch'ü

Page 2

The birth, development, and strengthening of the people's communes is like the rising sun with life-giving energy for the development of all kinds of undertakings. The rapid development of the militia and the role it plays in production and construction are some of the superior advantages of the communes. The unified employment of manpower in the communes has figured importantly in the growth of the militia, in its combining labor with militia training, and in developing the militia into a shock production force.

Militia work in the Li-tu Commune is progressing by leaps and bounds. In the one year since the establishment of this commune, its militia has expanded to 27 companies and 142 platoons totaling 5,470 persons, or 26.4 percent of the commune's population. In repeated practices, the men have scored excellent ratings in target exercises. The militia is also playing an important role in iron and steel production, basic construction, and agricultural production. It has registered great success in these fields.

The commune is the basic unit of the socialist structure of our country. It brings together the workers, the peasants, the merchants, the students, and the soldiers. This is to say that the commune will not operate in the simple fashion that the advanced cooperatives did. Besides engaging in agricultural production, the commune will also engage in industry and trade. It will operate schools. By correctly understanding these conditions and by strengthening militia work will score even newer successes and will enhance the development of all undertakings including production and construction. Following the establishment of the Li-tu Commune and on the basis of Chairman's directive on military affairs that the first secretary should take charge of military matter, the first secretary of this commune personally took command to establish and organize a group of powerful cadres. Militia work was included in the daily work schedule of the party committee. In this way, the militia can carry out regular training and help the commune in other undertakings. This is one of the advantages of the communes as manifested by the militia in its work. The second advantage of the communes as manifested by the militia is that the commune is organized into teams and its production organization is managed by three levels. In this way, the militia organization is suited to the production organization and its needs. In the past, when politics and the cooperatives functioned separately, the militia operated as one group and the

production organization operated as another group. Under this system, the militia was restricted to short training periods. Contradictions frequently developed over production and training. After the communes were established, the militia was reorganized with the production organization as the basic unit. In this way, the militia was able to combine training with labor. Contradiction between training and production work were eliminated. Moreover, training has greatly enhanced production.

The third advantage of the commune as manifested by the militia in its work is that it is organized on a large scale. Its scope is broad and it has a tremendous source of manpower. This has meant many conveniences for the militia. Before the communes were established, the militia, organized on a small scale, had a limited scope. It often had trouble securing a training instructor when one was not provided by the higher level. Food and pay for the men were always a problem, thereby adversely affecting training. With the establishment of the commune, the militia is operating under a broader scope than formerly and the militia cadres and demobilized personnel were utilized on a more rational basis. At present, the commune can provide their own instructors for all types of militia training, including target practices, and machine gun and artillery operations. The commune has solved the problems of paying and feeding the men. It has sufficient manpower to provide the militia for all kinds of activities, including propaganda campaigns. The militia has built a physical education ground for its men. It was built when the men were not engaged in production work. This ground is used for all types of sports and even for target practices. During noon hours and in the evenings, the masses assemble here for recreational entertainment. This has greatly enhanced cultural and physical education in the rural areas.

The fourth advantage of the communes as manifested by the militia in its work is that the public mess halls kindergartens, nurseries, and old age homes have liberated more than 50 percent of the women of the rural areas. These women participate in production work and also support the militia in its work. A mother of three children spent all day taking care of her family. She had no time to participate in production work and also support the militia in its work. A mother of three children spent all day taking care of her family. She had no time to participate in production work much less in militia training. After the commune was established, she began to take her meals at the public mess halls and sent her children to the nursery. Now she works 20 days a month and also takes militia training. Women thus liberated account for 55.2 percent of the militia force of this commune, or 2,050 persons. About 500 of these

women have participated in drill formation training and in target practice. The commune is also greatly promoting welfare projects. This also made it more convenient for both men and women to participate in militia activities. Discipline and organization have improved. In a few minutes time, the militia can be assembled for training exercises. The commune and the militia have brought about unified organization, unified system, unified movement, and unified ideology.

From the success of the Li-tu Commune in developing its militia, it can be stated that the advantages of the communes are tremendously great and its manifestations tremendously broad.

## IX. T'ANG-CHIANG COMMUNE'S FULL-TIME TRANSPORT TEAM

6 October 1959

Chung Wen-huo

Page 2

The full-time transport team of the T'ang-chiang Commune has been reorganized. It has 128 workers and 81 platform vehicles, two-wheel vehicles, bicycles, and hand carts. This team is responsible for transporting the general cargo of this commune. It not only supports agriculture but also guarantees the transport of all key items on schedule. It has saved much manpower. It would have taken an unorganized transport force 120,000 workdays to transport the commune's cargo for the period from November of last year to August of this year. It took the transport team only 38,400 workdays to complete this task. The 72,600 yuan received by this team has greatly strengthened the commune's economy.

We want to reflect several opinions with regard to the development of this team.

1. The basic guarantee to developing commune transportation is to strengthen party leadership.

When a large volume of cargo is to be transported by a small force, there are two ways to handle the resulting contradictions. One way is to use modern facilities for short hauls. The team must request these facilities from higher authorities. The other method is for the team to develop its own capability. The party committee has studied both methods. The party committee then criticized those who overemphasized foreign techniques in transport work, thus eliminating the tendency of employing foreign methods at the expense of native methods.

The party committee has further strengthened its leadership in transport work by including it in its daily work schedule. It has adopted the policy of unified planning, unified arrangement, unified inspection, and unified criticism in agricultural and transport work. The secretary in charge of industrial affairs is also in charge of communication matters. He goes down to the basic level and works with the masses to solve their problems. A party branch was established and staffed by selected cadres. In this way, the party's leadership in transport work is strengthened. Since its establishment, the full-time transport team has been strengthened on several occasions. It has criticized those who exploited the transportation work for personal gain. Emulation drives were launched to stimulate the vigor of the transportation workers. New records, new achievements, and an atmosphere of mutual cooperation are found everywhere in the team.

2. The team is strengthened by improving its system and organization. At the beginning, the team is now divided into land and water transport groups. A management committee has been established to exercise collective leadership. A work committee

is established in each of the two groups. Plans are formulated in various levels to ensure smooth operation. All major problems are handled by democratic discussions. At the same time, various incentive programs have been set up to reward the workers, thereby greatly enhancing transport tasks.

3. One of the key points in promoting commune transportation is the correct distribution of income. The method of income distribution has been revised several times. Its income is distributed along lines beneficial to production and to the cooperation between the workers and the peasants. The pay of transport workers is comparable to that received by workers in the handicraft industry. However, it is slightly higher than the pay of local peasants. Ten percent of the team's income is remitted to the commune. Sixty-five percent is distributed as income among the team members. Income from land transport is distributed to water transport workers. This system has greatly stimulated the initiative of the masses.

# X. A VISIT TO YU-I COMMUNE'S AGRICULTURAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

11 October 1959 Wei Shen-yu  
Page 3 Yang Hua-li

We visited the Yu-i Agricultural Middle School in Tung-hsiang Hsien a month ago. This school is firmly implementing the party's policy on education, study, and work. A new atmosphere has developed everywhere. This school was established in February by the commune in Kung-chia Ts'un, a rural area of only three families. This is a beautiful area conducive to studying. It is located near more than 200 mou of arable land. In the past, this land was not efficiently cultivated by the small number of people working on it. Production was low. This land is beneficial for both study and production; therefore, it is a suitable area as a production base for the school. The 80 students of this school have thoroughly reformed this land in a short period of six months. They have built houses and cultural and physical education grounds. The school's development has brought about a new look to this area.

The school has set up both junior primary and junior middle school classes. The courses of instruction include languages, mathematics, politics, agricultural techniques, and health. The classes meet twenty-four hours a week. The rest of the time is devoted to production work. The school's schedule was adjusted to meet the heavy load of the past several months when agricultural production was in its peak period. In this way, both production work and studies were carried out satisfactorily. The students' cultural level and their technical capability in agricultural production are steadily improving. For example, at the beginning of the school year, only 40 percent of the students can compose short stories. Now the number of these students has increased to more than 50 percent. After only a few months of study, the students made considerable progress in all areas of study. Some of the school's accounting work is performed by the students. The students' progress in agricultural technology was equally impressive. Most of the students have gained more than an elementary knowledge in the use of agricultural chemicals, fertilizer, and insecticide. This is also true with regard to their scientific knowledge in field-management. The students are conducting research work to find ways to increase production on low-yield land. They have found ways to improve fertilizer by the addition of night soil. The school planted more than 140 mou of early crops. This year, production will be increased to 358 chin per mou of land from the 143 chin per mou recorded last year. In a 2-mou experimental plot, the production reached more than 1,100 chin per mou.

The 82 mou of late crops is growing well. In struggling for a self-sufficient economic status, the schools have planted 20 mou of taros, 11 mou of water melons, and more than 10 mou of vegetables. It is also raising 11 hogs and 7 cows. By the end of the year, the number of hogs will be increased to 52 heads. It will be self-sufficient in pork supply.

The students are studying energetically, working enthusiastically, and are leading a rich cultural life. In the evenings, they engage in sports competitions.

From our visit, we learned that the members and the masses are thoroughly contented with the progress of the school. The people are proud of the school they have built by themselves. Some said it is the base from which they are mounting the cultural and technical revolutions. The students are scholars in the classrooms, and workers on the production front. They are the ones who promote advance experience and political undertakings. The school is now placed under the leadership of the party branch. It is closely coordinating production and study. It is our firm belief that this school will win greater success in academic work, production, and in political pursuits.

XI. COMMUNE RUNS COMMERCE:  
BOTH PRODUCTION AND LIVELIHOOD BENEFIT

17 October 1959  
Page 3

Wan Chia-mou  
Wan Hsueh-kuei  
Li Tung-ch'u

The members of the K'ao-ch'iao Commune in Lin-ch'uan Hsien are happily singing about the advantages of their commune-run commerce. These advantages also point up the unsurpassed advantages of the people's communes.

This commune is located northeast of Fu-chou. It is two li from the closest town and 22 li from the farthest town. In the past, there were no streets or markets in the area. Food and supplies for the more than 15,000 persons had to be imported from the cities. This was a handicap for the people in the work and livelihood. Following the liberation and under the leadership of the party a supply store was established in Ho-i-ch'iao to service production work and to deliver daily supplies to the people. Because it was organized on a small scale and serving many scattered households over a large area, it was inadequate to meet the demands in agricultural development and in the steadily improving living conditions of the people. These contradictions became more pronounced following the beginning of the big leap forward campaign of 1958. The establishment of the commune has corrected these contradictions. The commune has established a state-operated store, four branch stores, and three stations, employing a total of 28 persons. The commune has 14 production teams. On the average, there is a state-operated store for every large-size team or one for every two small teams. Commerce has been extended to all areas of the commune.

The commune run commerce plays an important role in agricultural production, industrial production, in the purchase of sideline products, in providing supplies for the people, and in fulfilling state purchase plans. In the first half of this year, total commune purchase amounted to more than 28,285 yuan, up 68.4 percent over the same period of last year. The purchase of hogs, domestic fowls, and eggs has already exceeded the quotas prescribed by the state. In giving support to industrial production, it has provided a processing plant with 16,500 tons of limestones, delivered 4,000 tons of coal, carried more than 12,300 chin of bones to chemical fertilizer plants, and supplied the peasants with thousands of small farm tools worth more than 39,090 yuan, 8.8 percent higher than last year. The supply of daily necessity items has increased 31.4 percent over the same period of last year. At present, the peasants can buy production tools at any time. They no longer have to sell their hogs in the cities. Purchase cadres buy from the peasants in their homes. Some members have praised Chairman Mao for making it so easy to buy goods at reasonable prices.

Party leadership is one of the basic guarantees to satisfactory work. When party leadership is provided, anything is possible. Before the establishment of the commune, party organs in the rural areas also exercised their leadership in the rural areas. However, at that time, the principal activities in the rural areas were agricultural work. Therefore, the cadres did not exercise adequate leadership over commercial activities. After the commune was established, its party committee paid attention to agricultural and industrial production and at the same time, exercised leadership over commercial activities. A secretary and two party committee members were selected to supervise commercial work. In the production brigades, this task is assigned to cadres. In practice, the principles of "unified leadership, unified arrangement, unified establishment, and unified inspection" are followed. Daily routines are managed by special trade organs. In this way, the commercial activities of the commune are always under proper management.

This strengthened leadership of the party committee has resulted in smooth operation of commercial activities. In March of this year, the party committee rendered full support to expand the commune's commercial stores by supplying material and personnel assistance and housing requirements. The production brigades contributed to this expansion. A network of stores was established in only a few days. When ideological problems came up, the party committee called meetings of cadres and workers to find the remedies. After several meetings, everyone realized that commercial work is an essential operation of the commune. Emulation drives were launched to promote this work. In May this year, the commercial departments reported to the party committee ordered the production brigades to put 40 percent of their manpower on vegetable production. In three days, more than 1,600 mou of vegetables were planted. During the peak period of the harvest season, some people proposed that commercial cadres participate in production work. But the party committee said the commune must not deviate from the principles of unified leadership and unified arrangement. Thus, the commercial cadres were not taken away from their work. Commercial activities were not interrupted. Moreover, their continued operation served to support and enhance harvest work.

The people's commune is the basic unit of our society. It is made up of the workers, the peasants, the merchants, the students, and the soldiers. It strives to simultaneously promote industry and agriculture. At the same time, it endeavors to promote the development of sideline production. Because of the magnitude of its organization, it has strengthened the collective system and liberated the women. This commune has not only ensured adequate manpower for agricultural production, guaranteed the continued leap forward of agriculture, increased the production of

its 17,000 mou early crops by 24 percent, but also allotted adequate manpower for the proper development sideline industries. Since its establishment, the commune has built 157 plants. Some 100,000 fruit trees were planted in the spring of this year. This year, the commune is raising 2.4 million fish, 4,550 hogs, 27,000 domestic fowls, and many cattles, horses, and bees. This has meant an ample source of supply for the commercial departments. The purchase of sideline production increased from 6,139 yuan in May to 15,918 yuan in August. Sales increased from 17,138 yuan in May to 28,762 yuan in August.

This commune promotes industrial production mainly to serve agriculture. The links between industry and agriculture are the commercial departments.

In accordance with the demands of various production brigades, the commercial departments delivered to them huge quantities of lime. This was made possible, because the commercial departments had arranged it with production departments in accordance with demand. Similar arrangements were made for the delivery of work tools needed for the fall harvest. Up to the present, the number of industrial plants has increased to 116 from 89, the number of workers to 471 (148 are seasonal workers) from 243 (131 are seasonal workers), and capital to 32,000 yuan from 11,000 yuan.

The people's commune is the organizer of production and livelihood. Therefore, its production, exchange of goods, expenditures, and capital accumulation must be planned. To ensure the proper exchange of goods, commercial departments have signed contracts with agriculture and industry departments. Under the leadership of the party committee, commercial departments of this commune have signed 14 contracts with various production organs. The contracts amount to more than 250,000 yuan, up 100-200 percent over last year. The commercial departments have also signed contracts with industrial departments to supply them with equipment, supplies and materials for irrigation construction, spring planting, and summer harvest work. This has developed a close relationship among the various departments and has brought the commune's plans in line with state plans.

The implementation of the contract system has strengthened the development of production. The contracts are good incentives for the members to develop their production potentials. They also help the cadres and commune members to recognize their responsibilities in fulfilling various state plans. In the past, this commune had never raised fish. Now it is raising 240,000 fish. Formerly, the Chin-kuang Production Brigade paid little attention to hog raising. Another production brigade neglected the breeding of domestic fowls. After the commercial departments signed contracts with these brigades in June, the production of domestic fowls and hogs increased by leaps and bounds. To help

the Chin-kuang Production Brigade solve its problems resulting from excess accumulation of capital, the commercial departments arranged for the Chin-kuang Brigade to lend 5,000 yuan of its capital to the Ho-p'ing Production Brigade. To help a fertilizer plant, commercial departments sent their men to buy 12,000 chin of bones for the plant. The commercial departments helped the Chin-kuang Production Brigade to exceed its egg purchase quota by 62 chin and 43 days ahead of schedule. The commercial departments trained many commune members to make dried mushrooms. To increase the technical level of the commune members in hog and domestic fowl raising, the commercial departments have set up classes to train them. Because the commune members can plan their production work in accordance with contract requirements and help them to solve their problems, production has been greatly enhanced. The purchase of hogs, chickens, and ducks have been completed ahead of schedule. The members have said: "the contract system is good, it coordinates production and demand, it is an important system and it helps the commune movement."

XII. STRIVE TO GET EACH HOUSEHOLD AN  
AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME OF 200 YUAN

18 October 1959  
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In Ping-hsiang Hsien, Kiangsi Province, a force of 80,000 men is organized to promote sideline production with the aim of securing an average annual income of 200 yuan per household.

After 8-9 months of hard work, the hsien has scored outstanding success in sideline production. Some 28 communes throughout the hsien have fulfilled their sideline production quota for the first three quarters and the first half of October this year. Three of the communes have fulfilled their sideline production quota for this year- two months ahead of schedule. The number of live pigs has been increased from 90,000 in 1959 to 220,000 at the present, the number of chickens, ducks, and geese has increased from 200,000 at the beginning of this year to more than 1.5 million at the present. The hsien is raising 110 million fish, up more than 500 percent over last year. The success in other sideline production activities was equally impressive. The average annual income from sideline production has reached 160 yuan per household.

The area under cultivation in Ping-hsiang Hsien is small. The best source for the peasants to increase their income is through sideline production. However, each year, the busy season in sideline production comes just before the beginning of fall harvest. Following the party central committee's proclamation on antirightist opportunism, practice economy, and on the struggle with greater effort, the party committee decided to push for a high tide in sideline production both in the fall and in the winter.

In this connection, various communes followed the policy of simultaneous development of the production of goods for self-consumption and that for commercial circulation. Local conditions were coordinated with the general marketing outlets for sideline products. By ascertaining the marketing outlets for sideline products, and by rationally assigning commercial tasks, the communes were able to develop their sideline production according to plans.

In accordance with the principle of unified employment of manpower to ensure a rich harvest, the communes also took measure to provide adequate labor for the development of sideline industries. Each commune devotes 20 percent of its manpower for sideline production. This force is formed into a full-time sideline production team, engaging in sideline production on a year-round basis.

During the slack season, an additional 30 to 50 percent of the manpower is organized into temporary teams for sideline production. The communes solved the problems of distributing the income from sideline production by strictly adhering to the principles of remuneration according to labor and more work for more remuneration. This resulted in greatly increased labor productivity among the commune members. For example, in the Liu-chi Commune, the labor productivity of bricklayers increased more than 100 percent. Now each person lays more than 1,100 brick a day compared with only 400 in the past. Throughout the hsien, industrial, transportation, and commercial departments are rendering full support to developing the sideline production industries. The industrial departments have manufactured many work tools for sideline production. The commercial departments sent more than 1,000 cadres to the communes to organize production materials, provide tools, and exercise technical leadership. At the same time, they are also buying the sideline products for the communes. The communication and transportation departments established facilities in various mountain areas to organize the shipping of sideline products.

### XIII. A QUESTION WORTHY OF ATTENTION

24 October 1959

Unsigned article

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In developing the economy of its production brigades, the Heng-shan People's Commune in Kuang-feng Hsien, also paid attention to the development of the economic sectors directly operated by the commune. This is a problem worthy of our serious attention. Under the present system, the means of production are owned by the brigades. If the brigades perform poorly in production work, the income of the commune members are adversely affected. Therefore, some of the most important tasks of the commune are to strengthen the economy of the production brigades and to increase the income of the members. This being the case, party organs in all brigades and communes have been paying serious attention to developing the economy of various production brigades. The economy of many production brigades has developed greatly in the last six months. Many of the poorer brigades have caught up with the richer ones. This development is entirely correct. However, some communes have failed to pay attention to the party committees call to develop their own economy. Some communes rely entirely on the economy of various production brigade for income and capital accumulation.

The communes should take vigorous steps to develop their economy. We know that the commune ownership system is also the people's ownership. But in the final analysis, it is not people's ownership. The present system is a socialist type of collective ownership. Ownership of the means of production belongs to the communes, the production brigades, and the production teams. This is ownership by three levels. We must gradually go from this system of ownership to ownership at one level. To achieve this, we must have the consent of the commune members and we must develop the economy of the communes. The economic development of the various production brigades in a commune must be developed at a uniform pace. In the process of this development, we must strengthen the socialist and communist education of the members, correctly handle the relationship between production brigades within a commune, and vigorously develop production so that the peasants can gradually switch over from small-scale collective ownership to grand-scale collective ownership. From this we can progress to people's ownership. The logic here is very clear. If the communes do not vigorously develop their economy, then how can they possess great economic strength? Without a strong economic foundation, how can the communes exercise collective ownership of the means of production at the commune level? Therefore, both the economic and political atmosphere must be developed. This is

ownership by three levels. We must gradually go from this system of ownership to ownership at one level. To achieve this, we must have the consent of the commune members and we must develop the economy of the communes. The economic development of the various production brigades in a commune must be developed at a uniform pace. In the process of this development, we must strengthen the socialist and communist education of the members, correctly handle the relationship between production brigades within a commune, and vigorously develop production so that the peasants can gradually switch over from small-scale collective ownership to grand-scale collective ownership. From this we can progress to people's ownership. The logic here is very clear. If the communes do not vigorously develop their economy, then how can they possess great economic strength? Without a strong economic foundation, how can the communes exercise collective ownership of the means of production at the commune level? Therefore, both the economic and political atmosphere must be developed. This is to say that the commune economy must be vigorously developed, so that the economic bases of the communes can be greatly strengthened in a short time. Of course, we must take local conditions into consideration as we develop the economic base of the communes.

It must be pointed out that as we develop the economy of the communes, we must not neglect the development of the economy of various production brigades. In fact, the economy of production brigades must be developed vigorously. The production brigades should strengthen the various plants operating directly under them. Some of these include farm tool plants, chemical fertilizer plants, brickyards, and grain processing plants. The communes should help the production brigades to develop their production. The production teams should develop their sideline production and help the production brigades to develop their economy. The production teams retain the income derived from sideline production. We must understand that we are trying to expand and strengthen the economic sector of the communes by expanding and developing production and not by reducing the economic sphere of the production brigades. As the members work under the collective labor system, they should also engage in sideline production at home. When it is necessary, the communes and production brigades should offer their help to the members.

#### XIV. HENG-SHAN COMMUNE BECOMING MORE CONSOLIDATED

24 October 1959  
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As the Heng-shan Commune in Kuang-feng Hsien was vigorously developing the economy of its production brigades, it also paid strict attention to the development of its own economy, thereby greatly strengthening the commune.

In the year since its establishment, this commune has been relying on favorable conditions in the development of its sideline and principal industries to establish its own dairy, chemical fertilizer plant, tea processing plant, farm implement plant, etc. It has purchased and installed three sets of industrial power units. By the end of August, the income of enterprises directly operated by the commune amounted to 766,000 yuan. This accounted for 45.6 percent of the total income of the commune from sideline and industrial production. Preliminary estimates show that by the end of the year, the income from the commune's own economic sector will amount to 1.2 million yuan, 15 percent more than the total income of the commune in 1958.

The commune's economy is becoming stronger and stronger everyday, thereby enhancing the leaping development of the commune's agricultural and industrial production. In the first half of this year, the young rice plants of a production brigade were not growing well. It had no money to buy fertilizer. The party committee immediately located 80,000 chin of native chemical fertilizer worth 5,500 yuan and 100,000 chin of lime to the production brigade from the commune's own economic resources. In this way, the brigade was able to apply 100 chin of fertilizer and 120 chin of lime to each mou of rice paddies. The rice plants turned from yellow to green. At the time of the summer harvest this year, the commune provided this brigade with more than 10,000 yuan worth of farm tools, thus enabling the commune's production brigade to complete their summer harvest and planting work. With the power equipment it purchased, the commune saved considerable manpower and solved its labor shortage problems. In the past, it took 15 men one day to polish 10,000 chin of rice. Using machines, this work is now performed by five men. The processing of tea leaves is one of the principal activities of the Heng-shan Commune. In the past, one handicraft worker can process 4 chin of tea leaves a day. Using machines, three men can now process more than 100 chin of tea leaves a day. The power equipment also helped irrigation work and enhanced the general leap forward in the commune's production.

The commune's development of its economy has also stimulated the development of the economy of various production brigades.

By the end of August, the income from the 65 plants operated by various production brigades amounted to 844,000 yuan, representing 54.4 percent of the commune's income from sideline production.

The economic development of the commune and the production brigades has greatly increased the income of the commune members. It has been estimated that the agricultural income from the summer harvest will amount to 1.5 million yuan, up about 50 percent over last year. Counting receipts from industrial and sideline production, the gross income of the commune will amount to more than 3 million yuan, thereby guaranteeing an increase in income for 95 percent of the commune's members. The welfare projects and undertakings of the commune have also been appropriately developed.

The economic importance of ownership by the commune has greatly impressed the commune members by the collective benefit that it brings to them. The great mass of the commune's members are placing their future well being on collective economic development. In the past, their enthusiasm was in individual production. Now their enthusiasm is in collective production. In the past, the commune members cultivated their own plots. Now they think in terms of collective cultivation first and their own cultivation second. The members of one production brigade cultivated 170 mou of land in their spare time. The Kuang-hui Production Brigade has 1,400 mou of land that can be used to plant two late crops. Last year, only 700 mou was used. This year, 1,200 mou was used. At present, the commune's members are working vigorously to harvest a bumper crop in four quarters of the year. To ensure a rich winter harvest, more than 1,500 members of this commune are making preparation for fertilizer delivery to the fields. In five days, they collected 150,000 tan of fertilizer. The commune has made plans to construct seven water reservoirs. Work on three of them has already begun. Fall harvest and winter planting work is also under way.

The experience of the Hong-shan Commune in the past year clearly shows that under the three level ownership system, the collective economy of the commune and the production of the production brigades must be developed simultaneously. Only in this way can the small collective production be developed and the collective economy gradually transferred to the people's ownership system. At present, the party committee of this commune has decided that in addition to developing the present economic base of the commune, it will build two coal processing plants, a soda ash plant, a chemical fertilizer plant, a lime processing plant, a brickyard, and textile mill for making summer cloths. In addition, cattle grounds and dairies will be appropriately expanded. The commune will also vigorously help the production brigades to develop their production.